

*Application No.: 10/815,867*  
*Art Unit: 3634*

*Attorney Docket No. 18455.02*  
*Confirmation No. 9981*

### REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8, 12, 13, 16, and 17. Claims 2-7, 10, 11 and 18-20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 12-17 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 12, 13, 16, and 17 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 10, 11, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cross (U.S. Patent No. 169,962). Claims 5 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cross. The Examiner indicated that Claims 6-9 and 12-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 6 and 7, as well as the subject matter of the intervening Claim 2. Note that, while the allowable subject matter of Claim 6 refers to "each said elevated receptacle", and the allowable subject matter of Claim 7 refers to "said base receptacle", Claim 1 refers to these collectively as "each said receptacle." Corresponding to the amendment of Claim 1, Applicant has cancelled the incorporated Claims 2, 6, and 7. Further, Applicant has rewritten allowable Claims 8, 12, 13, 16 and 17 in independent form. The cancellation of Claim 20 by the present amendment renders the prior art rejection of the embodiment defined by this claim moot. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claim 1 and its

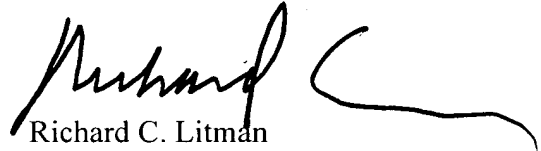
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corresponding dependent claims, and the rewritten independent Claims 8, 12, 13, 16, and 17 and their corresponding dependant claims, are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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